



What is original art?

Original art is created from an idea; in whole or in part, that you conceived and conceptualized on your own.

Can I copy another artist's painting?

No. All works are protected by federal copyright law. These works are protected whether the artist registered them or not.

Can I paint from published photographs?

No. Photographs are copyright protected by the photographer and cannot be used as reference material. Even copying similar compositions could be a problem.

Can I paint from non-copyrighted photographs?

You can use these materials as references, but the paintings cannot be entered in an art show as original work. You must be careful when selling "original art" when using photographs that are not your own. Original art is an idea that you conceived and conceptualized on your own.

Can I paint from photographs that I took off the television or computer?

No. This material is also copyrighted as are all advertisements, brochures, etc. *The safest way to avoid any problems is to take your own photographs.*

Can I paint from photographs that my spouse, friend, or relative took?

If you receive permission, you may paint from a photo, but you cannot enter that painting in an art show because it was not your composition. You **MUST** exercise caution when using another person's photograph. They may change their mind about the permission.

Can I enter a painting in an art show that I did in a class or workshop?

No. All paintings done under the supervision of an instructor are prohibited. All entries must be individual work. If you got a critique, that painting was not done by you alone.

Can I enter a painting in an art show that I did at home from a painting, sketch, or photograph in a class or workshop?

No, because it was not your original composition.

Can I create a painting from my "how to" painting books or from online lessons?

You may use the lessons you learn to create a painting of your own; but only from your own photograph, composition, or idea.

Can I use published images in my collage?

If you can make it unrecognizable, you may be safe. If it is part of public domain (100 + years), you are pretty safe. Using an unaltered image and giving credit to the artist or photographer is a risk that has generated lawsuits. When in doubt, **DON'T**.

The bottom line: *It is YOUR responsibility to ask whether your art is original. We have provided some FAQs, but all circumstances may not have been included. If in doubt, chances are that it will not be considered original.*